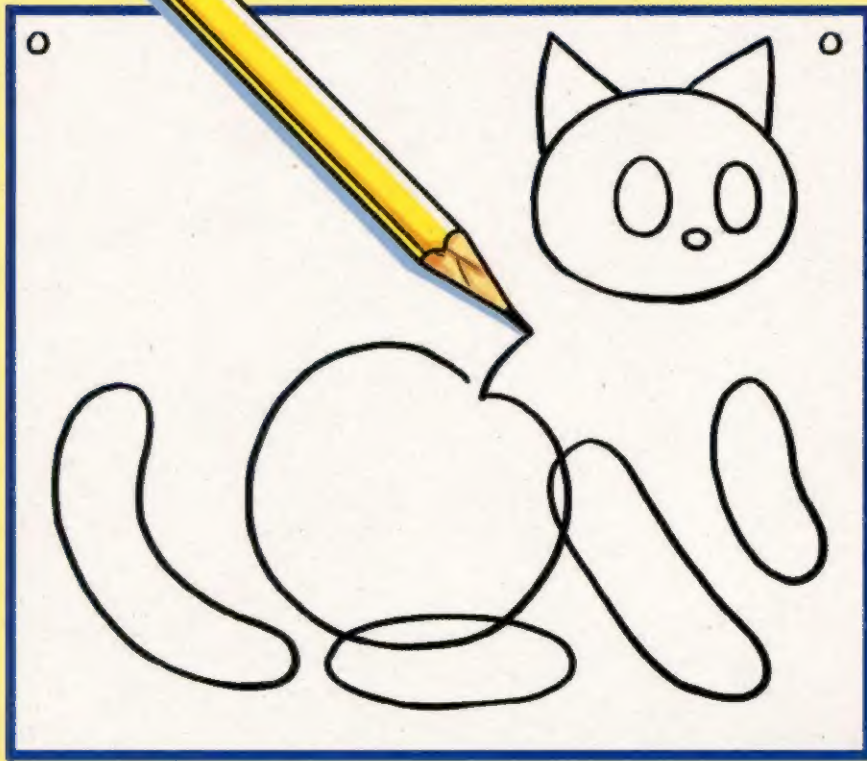


V. Suteyev



THE MOUSE and THE PENCIL

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The Mouse and the Pencil
V. Suteyev

Translated by
Ivy Litvinov

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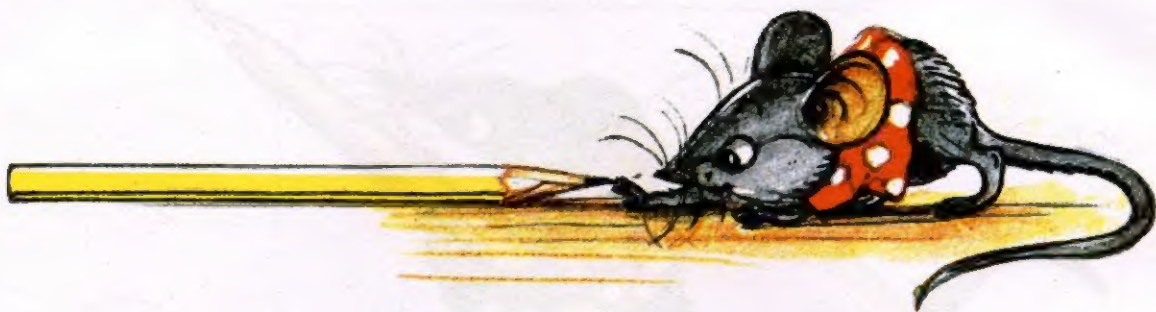
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Misha was very fond of his Pencil. Misha loved to draw, and the Pencil was very good, and always drew what Misha wanted it to.



One night, when Misha was fast asleep in his bed, a little Mouse got on to the table to look for something to eat.

"That's nice!" he thought, when he saw the pencil.

And he scurried off with it to his hole.

"Do let me go!" begged the Pencil. "What use am I to you? I'm only a piece of wood, I'm not good to eat."



"I'm going to gnaw you!" said the Mouse. "I have to gnaw something all the time to keep my teeth sharp. Here I go!"

And he bit the Pencil hard.



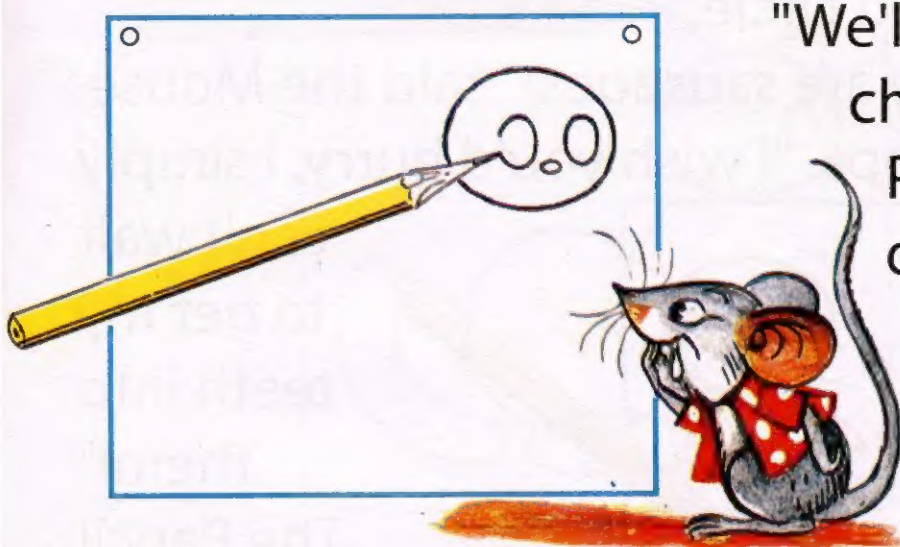
"You're hurting me!" said the Pencil. "Let me draw you one last picture, and then you can do what you like to me!"

"Very well," agreed the Mouse. "You draw something. Anyhow, I shall gnaw you into tiny pieces afterwards!"



The pencil sighed heavily, and drew a big circle.

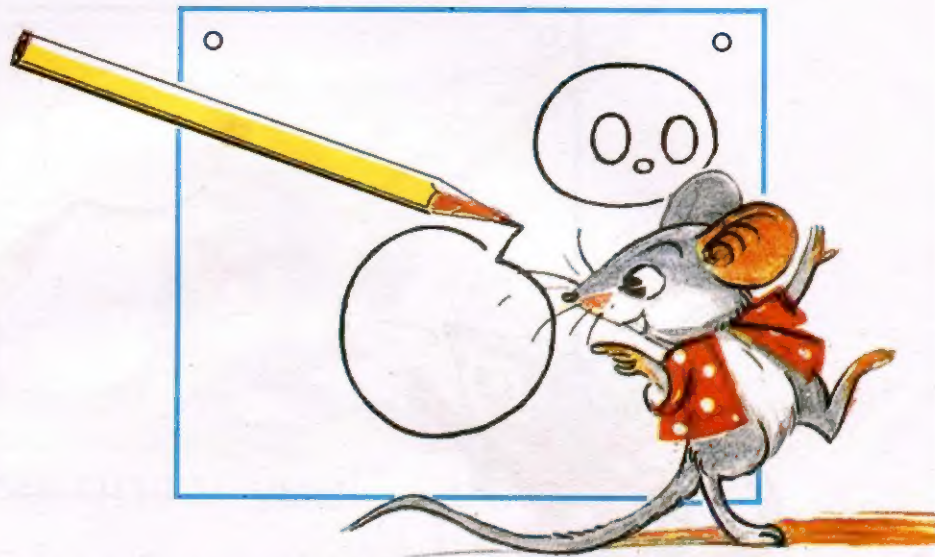
"Is that a cheese?" asked the Mouse.



"We'll call it a cheese," said the Pencil, and it drew three little circles inside the big one.

"I can see it's a cheese now," said the Mouse. "Look at those holes in it."

"Let's call them holes in the cheese," agreed the Pencil, and it drew another circle under the first one.



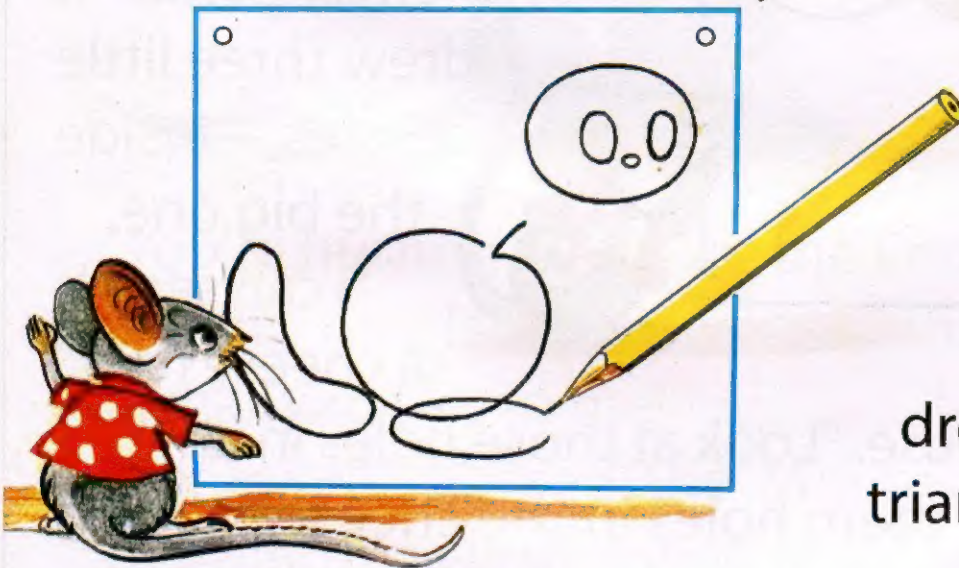
"That's an apple," squeaked the Mouse.

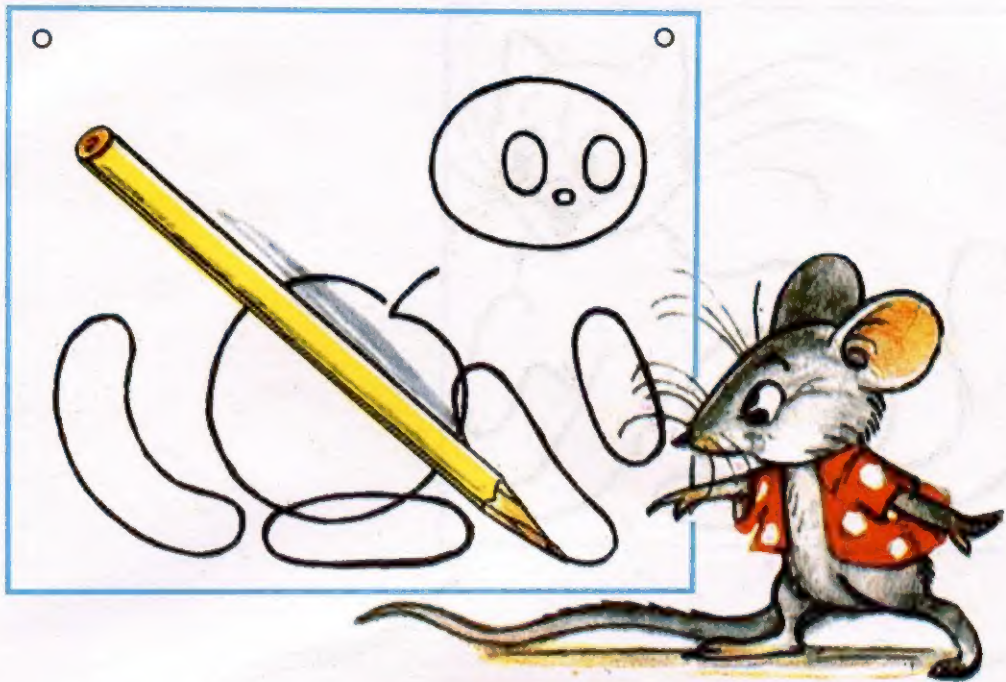
"Let's call it an apple," said the Pencil, and it began drawing some funny curved things near the second circle.

"Why, those are sausages!" said the Mouse, licking his chops. "I wish you'd hurry. I simply

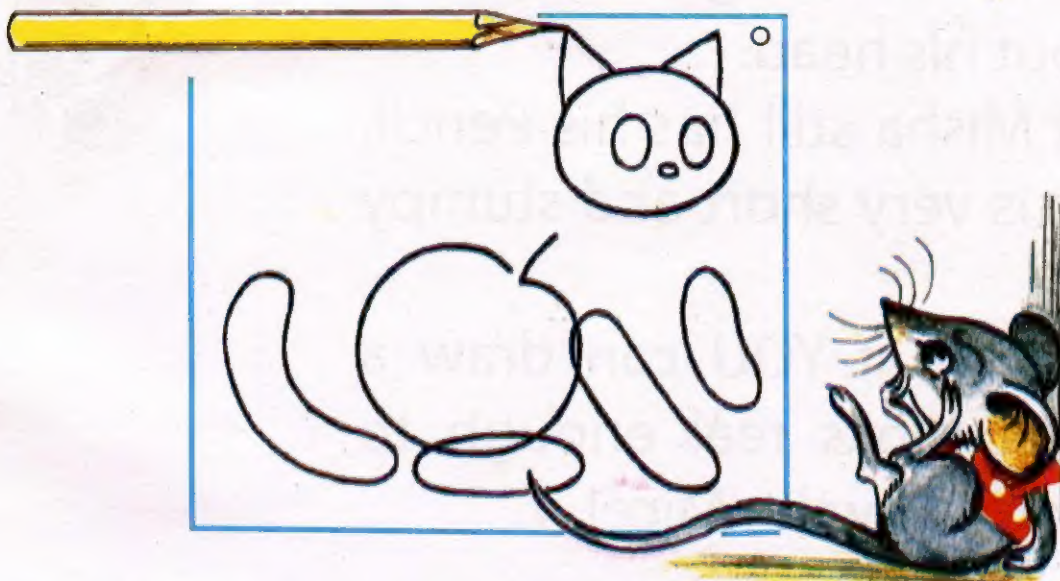
can't wait to get my teeth into them!"

The Pencil drew two little triangles on the top circle.



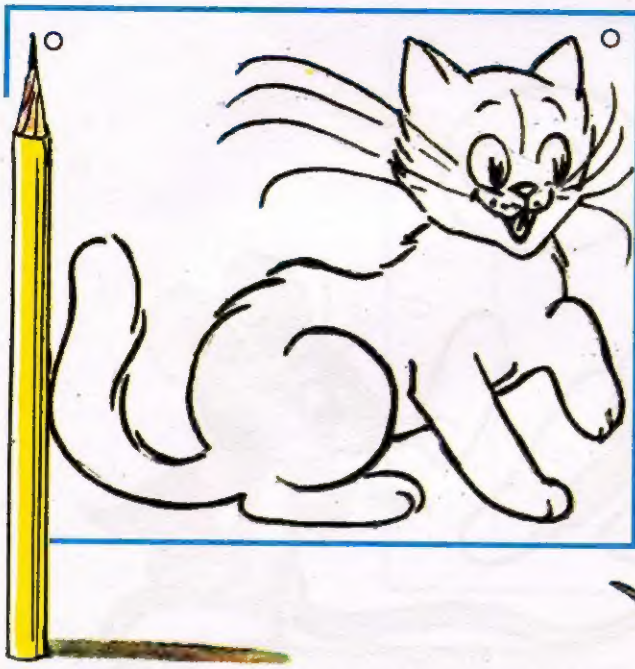


"Oh, oh!" squeaked the Mouse. "Now you've made it like a cat! Don't go on!"



But the Pencil went on, till it had drawn long whiskers and a mouth on the top circle.

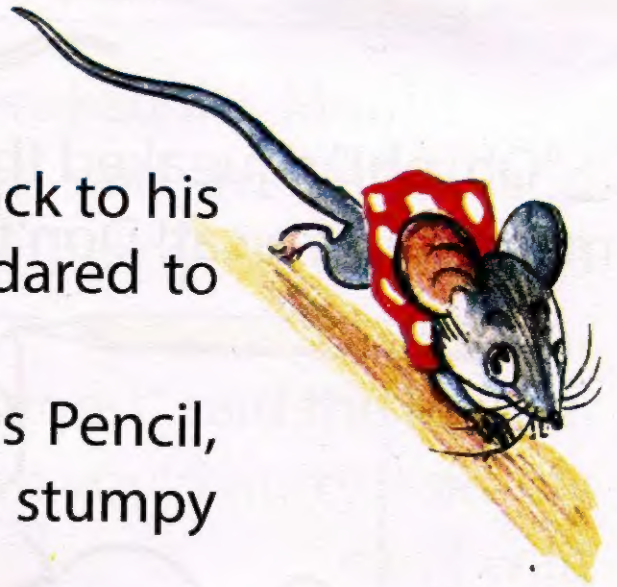
And the Mouse cried out in terror: "It's a real cat! Help!"

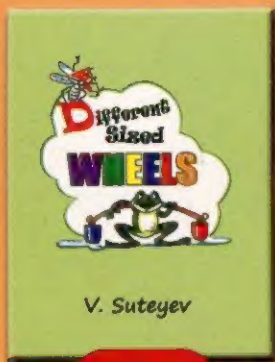


And he scampered back to his hole, and never again dared to stick out his head.

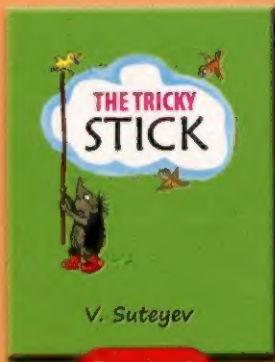
And Misha still has his Pencil, only it is very short and stumpy now.

Now see if YOU can draw a cat that looks real enough to frighten away the Mice!

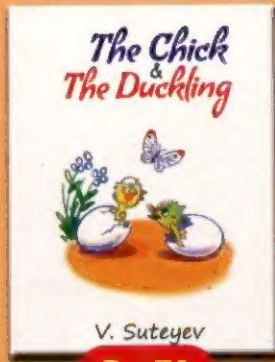




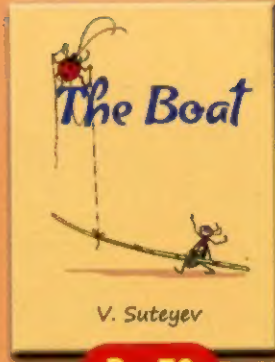
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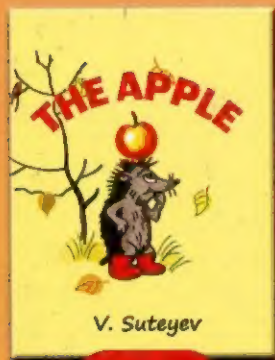
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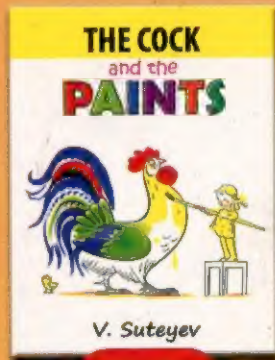
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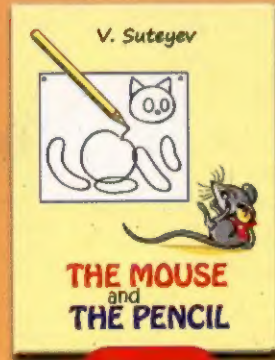
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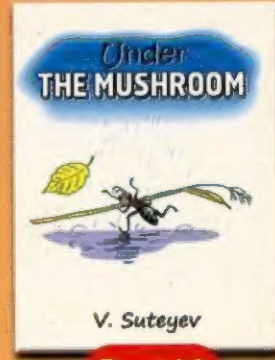
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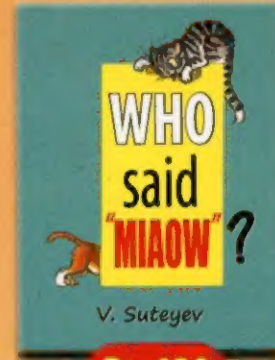
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